

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are active in the present application. Claims 4-6 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 12-15 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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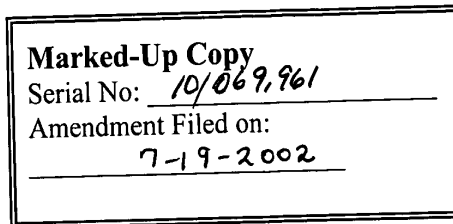


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IN THE CLAIMS

--4. (Amended) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 1 [either of claims 1 and 2, or the vaccine composition as claimed in claim 3], characterized in that it also comprises at least one detoxified exotoxin chosen from the group consisting of the lethal factor (LF) and the edematogenic factor (EF), which have been detoxified.

5. (Amended) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 1 [either of claims 1 and 2, or the vaccine composition as claimed in claim 3], characterized in that the spores are derived from a strain of *B. anthracis* chosen from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes [National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms] held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

6. (Amended) The immunogenic composition [or vaccine composition] as claimed in claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 5], characterized in that the protective antigen is chosen from the group consisting of the purified protective antigens derived from any wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*, and the recombinant protective antigens.

Claims 12-15 (New).--